



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Polander Lake, Winona, Minn.



Stage 2 Island complex at Polander Lake in Pool 5A, Winona, Minn.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), Polander Lake is a 1,000-acre backwater lake located on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River channel in pool 5A, near Winona, Minnesota. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. After inundation in the 1930's, Polander Lake had an abundance of emergent aquatic plants and provided a good staging area for migrating waterfowl. The area of emergent vegetation has declined over the years and has been replaced by submerged vegetation. Reasons for the change include sedimentation, wave action, and water velocities that increase turbidity, inhibit the growth of rooted aquatic plants, and decrease the lake's structural diversity.

The project was divided into two stages. Stage 1 included constructing a closure across a side channel carrying Pap Slough flows into the lake, a 1000-foot rockfill island in the upper portion of the lake to reduce the effects of wave action, and bank stabilization on two existing barrier islands to prevent further erosion. Stage 2 consists of an island complex totaling about 6,000 linear feet in the lower portion of the lake to improve conditions for aquatic plant growth and dredging to provide additional deepwater fish habitat. The project will increase the aquatic plant communities, enhance the lake's structural diversity, and decrease flow velocities in the lake.

Status

A construction contract for Stage 1 was awarded in July 1994 and was completed in October 1994. Repair of a closure that washed out during a high water event was completed in September 1996. Stage 1 has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance. A construction contract for Stage 2 was awarded in July 1999 and was substantially completed in September 2000. Seeding will be accomplished in 2001. Stage 2 was constructed in conjunction with a channel maintenance project to unload the Wilds Bend placement site.

Authority

The Polander Lake Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) and constructed in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated March 1992. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Cost	\$3,000,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Estimated Cost	\$3,000,000